

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION  
No. 5:11-CV-659**

**WESTDALE RECAP PROPERTIES, LTD.** )  
**AND WESTDALE WAKEFIELD NC, LP,** )  
 )  
**Plaintiffs,** )  
 )  
**v.** )  
 )  
**NP/I&G WAKEFIELD COMMONS, LLC** )  
**AND CENTRO NP, LLC n/k/a BRIXMOR,** )  
**LLC** )  
 )  
**Defendants.** )

**CONSENT  
PROTECTIVE ORDER  
AS MODIFIED**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26, and it appearing that discovery in the above-captioned matter will involve the disclosure of confidential information,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Westdale RECap Properties, Ltd and Westdale Wakefield NC, LP (“Plaintiffs”) and NP/I&G Wakefield Commons, LLC and Centro NP, LLC n/k/a Brixmor, LLC (“Defendants”) (Plaintiffs and Defendants are referred to herein, collectively, as the “Parties”), and any non-party, that, by itself or through its counsel, agrees to the terms of this Protective Order as provided herein, shall be governed by the following terms and conditions in connection with the production of “Confidential Information” (as defined herein) in this action.

**1. Introduction and Scope.** This Protective Order shall govern any and all manner and means of discovery, including entry onto land or premises, and inspection of any and all documents and electronically stored information. This Order applies to all information produced or disclosed since the filing of this action regardless of whether such information was produced or disclosed prior to or after the entry of this Order. Information previously exchanged among

the Parties pursuant to prior Agreements entered into by the Parties shall remain subject to the confidentiality and intellectual property rights provisions contained therein.

2. **Limitation of Protective Order.** This Protective Order is not intended to address discovery objections to produce, answer, or respond on the grounds of attorney-client privilege or work product immunity nor to preclude either party from seeking further relief or protective orders from the Court as may be appropriate under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

3. **Definitions.**

a. The term “Confidential Information” means any information, whether oral or in documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things that any producing person (as defined herein) reasonably and in good faith believes is of the type protectable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and is so designated by the producing person in accordance with this Order. “Confidential Information” collectively refers to information designated “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” pursuant to Sections 4 and 5, below.

b. The term “consultant” for purposes of this Protective Order, shall be defined as a person to whom it is necessary to disclose Confidential Information for the purposes of this litigation, including but not limited to a testifying expert, who is not a current or former employee of either party, and who is retained (during the pendency of this litigation) solely as a bona fide consultant or expert for purposes of this (or other) litigation, whether full or part time, by or at the direction of counsel for a party.

c. The term “document” means both documents and electronically stored information, as those terms are used in Fed. R. Civ. P 34(a). A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of the term.

d. The term “person” means any natural person, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, group, association, organization, business entity, governmental body, or agency.

e. The term “producing person” means any person, whether a party or nonparty, that produces or discloses any information in response to any discovery method permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or that provides or discloses information during a hearing or other proceeding in this action.

f. The term “receiving party” means any person to whom information is disclosed in this action in response to any discovery method permitted by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**4. “CONFIDENTIAL” Information.** Confidential Information shall be treated as “CONFIDENTIAL” if it (1) has been produced by a producing person; and (2) has been designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Absent a specific order by the Court, once designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” such information shall be used by the Parties solely in connection with this present litigation between them, and not for any other purpose, including but not limited to any business, competitive, or governmental purpose or function, including patent prosecution, and such information shall not be disclosed to anyone except as provided herein.

**5. “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” Information.** To designate information as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” the producing person must reasonably and in good faith believe that the information satisfies the criteria for designating such information as “CONFIDENTIAL” pursuant to Section 4 above, and reflects: (1) highly confidential business information, marketing plans, strategies, or methods, including business planning or financial documents having current or future applicability; or (2) sensitive non-public information that: (i) as of the date of

production, has been subject to the strict internal controls limiting dissemination within the designating party; and (ii) if not designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” and if disclosed to persons other than those who are permitted access pursuant to this Protective Order, would likely cause the producing person substantial commercial harm. By way of example, and not limitation, “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” information includes: (a) material that the producing party believes reasonably and in good faith contains any trade secret or other confidential research, as well as (b) development, technical, business, or financial information that has not been made public and has current or future applicability - such as business plans or strategies; costs or pricing information; sales and revenue information; contemplated, actual, or prospective business dealings with third-parties; and development strategy. “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” information expressly includes, but is not limited to the processes of products produced by the Parties.

6. **Confidentiality of Party’s Own Documents.** This Protective Order has no effect upon, and shall not apply to, a party’s use or disclosure of its own Confidential Information for any purpose. Such disclosure shall not waive the protection of this Protective Order and shall not entitle other Parties or their attorneys to disclose such information in violation of it.

7. **Designation.** The designation of information as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” for purposes of this Protective Order shall be made in the following manner by the party or non-party seeking protection, and shall further be consistent with any applicable Local Rule of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division:

(a) In the case of documents, exhibits, briefs, memoranda, interrogatory responses, responses to requests for admission, or other materials (apart from depositions or

other pretrial or trial testimony): by affixing the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” to any material containing any Confidential Information at the time such materials are produced, or as soon thereafter as the party or non-party seeking protection becomes aware of the confidential nature of the information disclosed and sought to be protected hereunder. If such material was produced by a non-party, any party seeking protection must also provide written notice to all Parties of the relevant document numbers or other reasonable identification of the relevant materials within fifteen (15) days of so designating the information. The Parties shall treat as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” all material produced by a non-party not previously designated hereunder as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” until the expiration of fifteen (15) business days after the receipt by counsel of the material from the non-party. The Parties may modify this procedure for any particular material and/or third-party by written stipulation, without further order of the Court.

(b) In the case of depositions: (1) by a statement on the record, by counsel, during such deposition that the entire transcript or a portion thereof shall be designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” hereunder; or (ii) by written notice of such designation to counsel for all other Parties and the court reporter within fifteen (15) business days following the receipt of the transcript of the deposition. During a deposition, the deponent, the deponent’s counsel, or any other counsel of record present at the deposition may invoke the provisions of this Protective Order in a timely manner, giving adequate warning to counsel for the party or non-party that testimony about to be given is deemed to be designated “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” The designating party shall have the right to exclude any person not entitled under this Protective Order to receive the Confidential

Information. The Parties shall treat as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” all depositions not previously designated hereunder as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” until the expiration of fifteen (15) business days after the receipt by counsel of the transcript of the deposition. The Parties may modify this procedure for any particular deposition or proceeding through agreement on the record at such deposition or proceeding or otherwise by written stipulation, without further order of the Court.

(c) In the case of hearing testimony or argument, whenever counsel for any party deems that any question or line of questioning calls for the disclosure of Confidential Information, counsel may designate on the record prior to such disclosure that the information should be deemed to be designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” Whenever information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” is to be discussed in a hearing or other proceeding, the designating party shall have the right to exclude any person not entitled under this Protective Order to receive the Confidential Information.

**8. Access To “CONFIDENTIAL” Information.** Information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” or copies or extracts therefrom and compilations and summaries thereof, shall be used solely in connection with and for purposes of this litigation between the Parties and may be disclosed only to the following persons:

(a) Outside counsel of record engaged to represent one of the Parties to this action, including legal assistants and stenographic and clerical employees assisting such counsel and outside vendors engaged by such counsel to scan and/or code documents;

(b) In-house lawyers who are advising a party regarding this action, including legal assistants and stenographic and clerical employees assisting these persons;

(c) Employees of the Parties to whom the Parties in good faith believe need to have access to such information for the prosecution or defense of this matter, subject to and conditioned upon compliance with Section 11, herein;

(d) Consultants of the Parties who are assisting counsel identified in (a) and (b) in this action and any assistants and stenographic and clerical employees under their direct supervision, subject to and conditioned upon compliance with Section 11, herein;

(e) The Court and Court personnel, including stenographic reporters;

(f) Graphics or design service providers retained by counsel for a party for purposes of preparing demonstrative or other exhibits for deposition, trial or other court proceedings in this action, subject to and conditioned upon compliance with Section 11, herein;

(g) Jury or trial consulting service providers retained by counsel for a party, and participants in related mock jury exercises, database managers and the like, subject to and conditioned upon compliance with Section 11, herein; and,

(h) Any other person only upon order of the Court or upon prior written consent of all Parties, subject to and conditioned upon compliance with Section 11, herein.

It is understood, however, that counsel for a party may give advice and opinions to his or her client based on his or her evaluation of information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” produced by the opposing party or a non-party, provided that such rendering of advice and opinions shall not directly or indirectly reveal the content of such information except by prior agreement with opposing counsel.

**9. Access to “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” Information.** Information designated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” and/or copies or extracts therefrom and compilations and summaries thereof, shall be used solely in connection with and for purposes of this litigation

between the Parties and shall not be disclosed to any person other than persons qualified under sub-parts (a), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of Section 8, subject to and conditioned upon compliance with Section 11, herein. It is understood, however, that counsel for a party may give advice and opinions to his or her client based on his or her evaluation of information designated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” produced by the opposing party provided that such rendering of advice and opinions shall not directly or indirectly reveal the content of such information except by prior agreement with opposing counsel.

**10. Custody of Designated Materials.** All Confidential Information covered by this Order shall be kept in secure facilities at the offices of persons permitted to see such information as set forth in Sections 8 and 9 of this Order.

**11. Procedure For Designated Employees and Consultants Access To Confidential Information.** The Parties agree that all persons listed in Sections 8(a) - 8(h) above may be given access to information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” and that all persons listed in Sections 8(a), 8(d), 8(e), 8(f), 8(g), and 8(h) above may be given access to information designated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” provided that they first confirm their understanding and agreement to abide by the terms of this Protective Order by completing and signing a copy of the declaration attached as Exhibit A.

**12. Use By Witness Who Received Or Authored.** Notwithstanding Sections 8 and 9 herein, in preparation for a deposition or trial, or for examination at a deposition or trial, any witness or potential witness may be shown Confidential Information that: (a) the witness has authored or (b) the witness has been identified as an addressee or copy recipient prior to and apart from this action.



13. **Challenge To Confidentiality Designation/ Protective Order.** This Order is entered solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information between the Parties to this action without involving the Court unnecessarily in this process. Nothing in this Order, nor the production of any documents or disclosure of any information pursuant to this Order, shall be deemed to have the effect of (a) an admission or waiver, including waiver under the rules of evidence, by any party or other subscriber to this Order; (b) altering the confidentiality or nonconfidentiality of any such information; or (c) altering any existing obligation of any party or other subscriber, or the absence of such obligation. Further, nothing herein shall be taken as indicating that any document or information designated as Confidential Information is entitled to confidential treatment. If the receiving party desires to disclose Confidential Information to a non-qualified person, or if it disagrees with the confidentiality designation by the producing person, then the receiving party shall so notify counsel for the producing person in writing. Pending resolution of any dispute as to the confidential treatment of information, such information shall be treated under this Order as Confidential Information of the sort designated by the producing person.

A party that elects to initiate a challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation must do so in good faith and in writing must: (1) identify with particularity (*i.e.*, by Bates number, page and line of deposition transcript; or otherwise) the challenged material and/or information; (2) explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper; and (3) give the designating party a minimum of ten (10) business days to review the designated material and change the designation or explain the basis for the original designation. If the designating party does not respond, provide adequate justification or agree to re-designate the material, the objecting party may seek relief of court. The original designation shall remain

effective until three (3) court days after entry of an order re-designating the materials. Once information is deemed re-designated, substitute copies thereof shall be produced by the original designating party bearing the appropriate designation or lack thereof. In addition, this Protective Order shall not prevent a party from applying to the Court for relief therefrom, or from applying to the Court for further or additional protective orders.

**14. Filing Confidential Information Designated “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” By The Filing Party.** In the event that a party seeks to file materials that it designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” under seal, the filing party shall comply with Local Civil Rule (“LR”) 79.2 and Section T of the Eastern District of North Carolina’s CM/ECF Policy Manual (“Policy Manual”), and accompany its request with a motion to seal. A motion to seal may be filed without a supporting memorandum only if the party moving to seal information can cite a statute or rule (federal, local or standing order) that requires the filing to be sealed. Absent such authority, the party moving to seal information must submit a supporting memorandum that specifies:

- (i) the exact document or item, or portions thereof, for which filing under seal is requested;
- (ii) how such request to seal overcomes the common law or the First Amendment presumption to access;
- (iii) the specific qualities of the material at issue which justify sealing the material, taking into account the balance of competing interest in access;
- (iv) the reasons why alternatives to sealing are inadequate; and
- (v) whether there is consent to the motion.

In addition to the motion and supporting memorandum, the party requesting filing under seal must set out such findings in a proposed order to seal, which should be submitted in accordance with Section M of the Policy Manual.

**15. Filing Under Seal Confidential Information Designated “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential” By Another Party or Individual.** Before filing any information that has been designated "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" with the Court, or any pleadings, motions or other papers that disclose any such information, counsel shall confer with counsel for the party that produced the information so designated about how it should be filed. If the party that produced the information so designated desires that the materials be filed under seal, then the filing party shall file the materials in accordance with Local Civil Rule 79.2(e), EDNC, with notice served upon the producing party. The filing of the materials under seal shall not be binding on the Court, however. Within 10 days of service of such notice, the party desiring that the materials be maintained under seal shall file with the Court a Motion to Seal and supporting memorandum of law specifying the interests which would be served by restricting public access to the information. The party that initially filed the materials need not file any such Motion to Seal or otherwise defend another party's desire that the materials remain sealed. The Court will grant the Motion to Seal only after providing adequate notice to the public and opportunity for interested parties to object, after carefully weighing the interests advanced by the movant and those interests favoring public access to judicial documents and records, and upon finding that the interests advanced by the movant override any common law or constitutional right of public access which may attach to the information. Documents submitted under seal in accordance with this paragraph will remain under seal pending the Court's ruling. If the party desiring that the information be maintained

under seal does not timely file a Motion to Seal, then the materials will be deemed unsealed, without need for order of the Court.

**16. Use of Confidential Information In Court Proceedings.** In the event that any information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” hereunder is used in any court proceeding in this action or any appeal therefrom, such information shall not lose its status as Confidential Information through such use. Counsel for the Parties shall confer on such procedures as are necessary to protect the confidentiality of any information used in the course of any court proceedings, and shall incorporate such procedures, as appropriate, in the pre-trial order.

**17. Counsel Bound By Protective Order.** All counsel for the Parties who have access to information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” under this Protective Order, including in-house counsel qualified to have access to “CONFIDENTIAL” information under Section 8(b), herein, acknowledge they are bound by this Order and submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for purposes of enforcing this Order.

**18. No Prejudice.** Entering into, agreeing to, and/or producing or receiving information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” or otherwise complying with the terms of this Protective Order shall not:

(a) Operate as an admission by any party that any particular information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” contains or reflects trade secrets, proprietary or commercially sensitive information, or any other type of Confidential Information;

(b) Operate as an admission by any party that the restrictions and procedures set forth herein constitute or do not constitute adequate protection for any particular information deemed by any party to be Confidential Information;

(c) Prejudice in any way the rights of the Parties to object to the production of documents they consider not subject to discovery;

(d) Prejudice in any way the rights of any party to object to the authenticity or admissibility into evidence of any document, testimony or other evidence subject to this Protective Order;

(e) Prejudice in any way the rights of a party to seek a determination by the Court whether any information should be subject to the terms of this Protective Order;

(f) Prejudice in any way the rights of a party to petition the Court for a modification of this Protective Order or for a further protective order relating to any Confidential Information or other information;

(g) Prejudice in any way the rights of a party to make a separate application to the Court that information of proprietary or competitive value, but which is not specifically included in the categories of "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" information itemized in Sections 4 and 5, above, should be properly designated as either "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL;"

(h) Prejudice in any way the rights of a party to ask the Court to permit any person, otherwise subject to exclusion from any part of a hearing or proceeding at which Confidential Information may be disclosed, to remain present during the hearing or proceeding notwithstanding the disclosure of the Confidential Information;

(i) Prevent the Parties to this Protective Order from agreeing in writing or on the record during a deposition or hearing in this action to alter or waive the provisions or protections provided for herein with respect to any particular information.

**19. Inadvertent Production of Privileged or Confidential Information.** In the event any document is produced that the producing person later claims is protected by the attorney-client privilege, work product doctrine, or other privilege or immunity, the receiving party shall, within five (5) business days of receipt of a written request by the producing person, return the original to the producing person, destroy all copies thereof, as well as all notes, memoranda or other documents that summarize, discuss, or quote the document, and delete any copy of the document, or any portion thereof, from any word processing or data base tape or disk it maintains. Production of privileged, work-product-protected, or otherwise immune documents in the course of discovery in this action shall not constitute a waiver of any privilege, work product protection, or immunity, either as to the produced document or as to any other documents or communications. Return of a document for which the producing person has asserted a claim of privilege, work-product-protection, or immunity under this section shall be without prejudice to the receiving party's right to seek an order from the Court directing production of the document on the ground that the claimed privilege, work product protection, or immunity is invalid or inapplicable, provided, however, that mere production of the document in the course of this action shall not be a ground for asserting waiver of the privilege, protection, or immunity. Inadvertent failure to designate any information pursuant to this Protective Order shall not constitute a waiver of any otherwise valid claim for protection, so long as such claim is asserted within fifteen (15) days of the discovery of the inadvertent failure. At such time, arrangements shall be made for the return to the designating party of all copies of the

inadvertently mis-designated or undesignated documents and for the substitution, where appropriate, of properly designated copies.

**20. Modification by Stipulation.** This Protective Order may be modified, and any matter related to it may be resolved by written stipulation of the Parties upon entry of such stipulation as an Order of the Court.

**21. Non-Termination.** The restrictions on use of Confidential Information set forth in this Protective Order shall survive the conclusion of this litigation and, after conclusion of this litigation, the Court shall exercise limited jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing this Protective Order.

**22. Final Disposition.** The provisions of this Protective Order shall, absent written permission of the producing party or further order of the Court, continue to be binding throughout and after the conclusion of this action, including without limitation any appeals therefrom. Within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of the entry of an order, judgment, or decree finally disposing of this action, including any appeals therefrom, all persons having received Confidential Information shall return such information and all copies thereof to counsel for the producing party, or shall certify destruction thereof. Counsel described in Section 8(a) herein shall be entitled to retain court papers, deposition and trial transcripts and attorney-work product (including court papers, transcripts, and attorney work product that contain information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL”) provided that such counsel, and employees of such counsel, shall not disclose any such information designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” contained in such court papers, transcripts, or attorney work product to any person or entity except pursuant to court order or a written agreement with the producing party of the information. All Confidential Information

returned to the Parties or their counsel by the Court likewise shall be disposed of in accordance with this section.

**23. Subpoena of Confidential Information in Another Action.** If any party (a) is subpoenaed in another action, (b) is served with a demand in another action to which it is a party, or (c) is served with any other legal process by one not a party to this action, seeking information which was designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” by someone other than that party, the party shall give written notice within five (5) days of receipt of such subpoena, demand or legal process, to those who designated the information “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” and shall object to its production to the extent permitted by law. Should the person seeking access to the information take action against the party or anyone else covered by this Protective Order to enforce such a subpoena, demand or other legal process, the party shall respond by setting forth the existence of this Protective Order. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the party or anyone else covered by this Protective Order to challenge or appeal any order requiring production of information covered by this Protective Order, or to subject itself to any penalties for noncompliance with any legal process or order, or to seek any relief from this Court.



**FOR PLAINTIFFS:**

LEWIS & ROBERTS, PLLC

/s/ Brooke N. Albert  
James A. Roberts, III  
N.C. State Bar No. 10495  
[jar@lewis-roberts.com](mailto:jar@lewis-roberts.com)  
Brooke N. Albert  
N.C. State Bar No. 36584  
[bnal@lewis-roberts.com](mailto:bnal@lewis-roberts.com)  
3700 Glenwood Ave., Suite 410 (27612)  
P. O. Box 17529  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-7529  
Telephone: 919-981-0191  
Facsimile: 919-981-0199

*Local Civil Rule 83.1 Counsel*

GRIFFITH NIXON DAVISON, P.C.

/s/ Scott Griffith  
Scott Griffith  
Texas State Bar No. 08482150  
[sgriffith@gndlaw.com](mailto:sgriffith@gndlaw.com)  
Curtis Hubbard  
Texas State Bar No. 24029621  
[chubbard@gndlaw.com](mailto:chubbard@gndlaw.com)  
Stephen C. Bolline II  
Texas State Bar No. 24069396  
[sbolline@gndlaw.com](mailto:sbolline@gndlaw.com)  
Two Lincoln Centre  
5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 900  
Dallas, Texas 75240  
Telephone: 972-392-8900  
Facsimile: 972-392-8901

**FOR DEFENDANTS:**

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC

/s/ Pressly M. Millen  
Pressly M. Millen  
N.C. State Bar No. 16178  
[pmillen@wcsr.com](mailto:pmillen@wcsr.com)  
P. O. Box 831  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602  
Telephone: 919-755-2135  
Facsimile: 919-755-6067

*Local Civil Rule 83.1 Counsel*

STROOCK & STROOCK & LAVAN LLP

/s/ Paul A. Shelowitz  
Paul A. Shelowitz  
FL Bar No. 777447  
[pshelowitz@stroock.com](mailto:pshelowitz@stroock.com)  
200 South Biscayne Blvd., Suite 3100  
Miami, FL 33131  
Telephone: 305-358-9900  
Facsimile: 305-789-9302

KOGAN TRICHON & WERTHEIMER, P.C.

/s/ Mark E. Kogan  
Mark E. Kogan  
PA State Bar No. 10186  
[mkogan@ktwlaw.com](mailto:mkogan@ktwlaw.com)  
Christopher N. Jones  
PA State Bar No. 81757  
[cjones@ktwlaw.com](mailto:cjones@ktwlaw.com)  
1818 Market St., 30th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Telephone: 215-575-7600  
Facsimile: 215-575-7688

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KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP

/s/ Gregg E. McDougal

Gregg E. McDougal

NC State Bar No. 27290

gmcDougal@kilpatricktownsend.com

Alan D. McInnes

NC State Bar No. 20938

amcInnes@kilpatricktownsend.com

3737 Glenwood Ave.

Suite 400

Raleigh, NC 27612

Telephone: 919-420-1829

Facsimile: 919-420-1800

*Local Civil Rule 83.1 Counsel*

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This Consent Protective Order is the subject of the plaintiffs' motion for approval of this Order (D.E. 33), filed 14 August 2012. Defendants consent to entry of the Consent Protective Order. The court hereby ALLOWS the motion, and APPROVES and ADOPTS this Consent Protective Order on the foregoing terms, subject to the following:

The provisions of Local Civil Rule 79.2, E.D.N.C. regarding sealed documents shall supersede any contrary terms above, including any such terms in Paragraphs 14 and 15. Any person submitting documents under seal pursuant to this Consent Protective Order shall submit with them a motion to seal and shall otherwise comply with Local Civil Rule 79.2. The motion shall be accompanied by a supporting memorandum showing that the documents may properly be sealed. *See, e.g., Stone v. University of Maryland Medical System Corp.*, 855 F.2d 178, 180-81 (4th Cir. 1988).

The return of trial exhibits by the court shall be governed by Local Civil Rule 79.1 notwithstanding any contrary terms above, including any such terms in Paragraph 22.

SO ORDERED, this the 17th day of September 2012.

  
James E. Gates  
United States Magistrate Judge

**EXHIBIT A**

**Form of Agreement and Acknowledgment to  
be Bound by Protective Order**

[Name of signator] ("Signator") hereby acknowledges that he/she has read and agrees to be bound by all of the terms of the attached Protective Order, dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, in the action captioned *Westdale RECap Properties, Ltd., et al. v. NP/I&G Wakefield Commons, LLC, et al.*, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division, No. 5:11-CV-659. Signator further agrees to consent to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division, for purposes of enforcement of the Protective Order. Signator further agrees that all Confidential Information, whether designated "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL," will be used only for this litigation and will not be used for any other purposes.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SIGNATOR:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_